



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 211, March 1, 2024

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active, but with a 5-week maximum.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

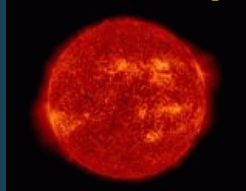
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

02 Mar 2024 1506 GMT  
SFI:153 SN: 102  
A-Index: 9  
K-Index: 1  
X-Ray: C1.4  
304Å: 148.0 @ SEM  
Ptn Flx: 1600  
Elc Flx: 2020  
Aurora: 2/n=1.99  
Mag (Bz): -2.5  
Solar Wind: 294.0  
Geomag Field VR QUIET  
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1  
Current Solar Image



<http://www.norbh.com>  
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## DX News

**3B8, MAURITIUS.** Timo, OH1NA will be active holiday style as **3B8/OH1NA** from Mauritius (AF-049) from **February 25th to March 7th**. He will operate CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [OH1NA](#).  
-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0223-0308)

**3B9, RODRIGUES I.** Richard, HB9FHV is QRV as **3B9/HB9FHV** and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1630z. QSL direct to [HB9FHV](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

**3W, VIET NAM.** Gran, **XV9G** has been active on 12 meters using CW around 1200z. QSL

direct to [XV9G](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

**4J, AZERBAIJAN.** Special event station **4JTØSFR** is active from Baku and has been QRV on 12 meters using CW around 1345 UTC. QSL to [4JTØSFR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0322)

**5A, LIBYA.** Abubaker, **5A1AL** has been active on 10 meters using FT8 around 0830 and 0930z. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

**5H, TANZANIA.** Nobby, GØVJG will be active holiday style as **5H3VJG** from Zanzibar Island (AF-032), Tanzania on **March 7th-20th**. He will operate mainly SSB with some CW and FT8, and will try to be QRV for the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (March 9th-10th). QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0301-0322)

**5R, MADAGASCAR.** Borut, S53BV will be QRV as **5R8BV** from Nosy Be (AF-057) from **February 17th to March 3rd**. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the ARRL International DX CW (February 17th-18th) and upcoming ARRL DX SSB Contest (February 23rd-25th). QSL direct to [S53BV](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 15, 2024] (0216-0308)

**5R, MADAGASCAR.** Eric, F6ICX is QRV as **5R8IC** until **March 31st**. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW with low power. The last two weeks here will be spent being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL direct to [F6ICX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0308)

**6W, SENEGAL.** Willy, ON4AVT will be QRV as **6W7/ON4AVT** from Warang from **February 3rd to April 16th**. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL to [ON4AVT](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 5 February 1, 2024] (0202-0308)

**6Y, JAMAICA.** Iain, G4SGX will be active as **G4SGX/6Y** from Jamaica (NA-097) on **March 5th-13th**. He will operate CW only on 80-10 meters and will take part in the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (March 9th-10th). QSL via LoTW, or via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1713 March 2, 2024] (0301-0315)

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Sergey, RX3APM is QRV as **8Q7BB** from Baa Atoll until **March 8th**. Activity is holiday style on 80 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to [RX3APM](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**C6, BAHAMAS.** Operators N1GN and NE1B are QRV as **C6ANM** from New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, until **March 4th**. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. This includes being an entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (March 2nd-3rd). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**CE9, ANTARCTICA.** Alex, UG1A, Ivan, UB1AQB, and Zahar (ex-UH4NAE) activate Vostok base until the end of March as **RI1ANC**. QSL via [RN1ON](#).

-[DXNL # 2395 February 28, 2024] (0301-0405)

**CO, CUBA.** Team **T42T** will be active from **February 29th to March 4th**, including an entry in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd). Participating in this joint Cuba-USA operation will be CM2TV, CO2II, CO2KL, CO2OY, CO2XN, HI8RD, K5TFL, VO1IDX, W2WCM, W4VKU, W9MK and WB2REM. They will be active on 160-6 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [WB2REM](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0308)

**DL, GERMANY.** DARC Team SES will be active as **DL75AFUG**, **DL75AFUV** and **DP75AFUG** from **March 1st until April 30th** to mark the 75th anniversary of the first Amateurfunkgesetz (AfuG), the German amateur radio regulations that came into force on March 23, 1949. A certificate will be available, see <https://www.qrz.com/db/DP75AFUG> for information. QSL automatically via the bureau, or direct to [DL2VFR](#).

-[425DXN # 1713 March 2, 2024] (0301-0405)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of March 1, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. KH4	Midway Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. VKØM	Macquarie Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. KP5	Desecheo Island
7. FT/G	Glorioso Island	17. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
8. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	18. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
9. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	19. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
10. YVØ	Aves Island	20. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF March 1, 2024] (0301-0315)

**FG, GUADELOUPE.** Look for Gildas, F6HMQ and Michel, F6GWV to be active again as **FG/F6HMQ**, **FG/F6GWV** and **TO3Z** from Guadeloupe (NA-102) from **February 15th to March 17th**. There are plans to participate in the SSB leg of the French HF Championship ("Coupe du REF", February 24th-25th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd). QSL via [F6HMQ](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0322)

**FG, GUADELOUPE.** Pascal, F6ASS plans to operate the REF SSB Cup (**February 25th**) and the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (**March 2nd-3rd**) as **FG4KH** from Guadeloupe (NA-102). Later in March, F1DUZ is going to use the same callsign for the CQ WPX SSB Contest (March 30th-31st).

-[DXNL # 2394 February 21, 2024] (0223-0308)

**FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA.** Geri, DK8KW, operates from Papeete on Tahiti (OC-046) from **February 29th to March 3rd** as **TXØQRP** with 5 Watts on 20-10m CW (and FT8 only during bad conditions). QSL via [DK8KW](#).

-[DXNL # 2390 January 24, 2024] (0223-0308)

**FR, REUNION I.** Thierry, FY4JI, will be active as **FR4AV** from **February 4th to March 11th** on 40-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [EA5GL](#).

-[DXNL # 2391 January 31, 2024] (0202-0308)

**FW, WALLIS & FUTUNA IS.** Stan, LZ1GC and Ted LZ5QZ will be active as **FW8GC** and **TX8GC** from Wallis Island (OC-054) from **February 19th to March 9th**. They will operate CW, SSB, FT8, FT4 and maybe some RTTY on 160-6m. See <https://www.c21gc.com/> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, or via [LZ1GC](#).

-[425DXN # 1708 January 27, 2024] (0216-0308)

**H4, SOLOMON IS.** Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active again as **H44MS** from Malaita (OC-047), Solomon Islands from around **February 10th until April 25th**. He will be QRV daily, with activity on 160-6 meters SSB and some FT8. He will upload his log to ClubLog and LoTW. QSL via [DL2GAC](#), direct or bureau.

-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0209-0315)

**H4Ø, TEMOTU PROVINCE.** The Intrepid DX Group's DXpedition to Pigeon Island (OC-065), Temotu Province is set to take place from **February 22nd to March 7th**. Look for team **H4ØWA** (Rob N7QT, Paul N6PSE, Scott NE9U, Jay K4ZLE, Jay AC7DC, Bruce K3NQ, Don N6JRL and David AH6HY) to operate CW, SSB and FT8 (F/H) on 160-6 meters with up

to 5-6 stations. While on the island, the team will post frequent updates to their Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/h40wa>). See <https://intrepid-dx.com/h40wa/> for the detailed QSL policy. QSL via [MØURX's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0308)

**HH, HAITI.** Yuri, N2TTA will be QRV as **HH2AA** as a Single Op/Low Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** Special callsign **HI18ØRD** celebrates the 180th anniversary since the Dominican Republic declared its independence from Haiti (February 27, 1844). Look for activity on all bands and modes beginning **February 27th until April 30th**. Some 25 operators from five radio clubs will be part of the event. A certificate will be available, see <https://independencia2024.org/> for information.

-[425DXN # 1713 March 2, 2024] (0301-0405)

**HK, COLOMBIA.** Matt, KC1XX will be QRV as **5K4X** as a Single Op/Low Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**HL, SOUTH KOREA.** Ji, DS1TUW plans to be active as **DS1TUW/2** from Paengnyong Island (AS-122, WWL PM27ix) from **February 29th until around 0100 UTC on March 3rd**. He will operate CW, FT8 and some SSB depending on propagation, on 40-6 meters. He plans to enable ClubLog's Live Stream "to minimize the dupes", but "bear in mind there could be intermittent internet disconnections". QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or via [DS1TUW](#).

-[425DXN # 1706 January 13, 2024] (0223-0308)

**HS, THAILAND.** Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, RAST members will be active as **HS6ØRAST** from **February 10th to March 10th**. QSL via [HS6MYW](#).

-[425DXN # 1710 February 10, 2024] (0209-0315)

**HZ, SAUDI ARABIA.** Special callsigns **HZ1SFD**, **7Z1SFD** and **8Z1SFD** are for the Saudi Amateur Radio Society (HZ1SAR) to celebrate Saudi Flag Day on **March 2nd-11th**.

-[425DXN # 1713 March 2, 2024] (0301-0315)

**I, ITALY.** Members of ARI Carpi (Modena) will be active as **IQ4DJ** (club callsign) and **II4CPC** (special callsign) on **March 4th-10th** to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Chilean city of Capitan Pastene, founded by Italian settlers who arrived from Modena in two successive migrations. Also active will be **CB6I** and **CB6CPC**, operated by members of Radio Club Traiguen. Four certificates will be available, see [II4CPC](#) on qrz.com for information. QSL II4CPC via [IQ4DJ](#); QSL CB6I and CB6CPC via [CE6TRA](#).

-[425DXN # 1713 March 2, 2024] (0301-0315)

**I, ITALY.** Special callsign **IY9MM** will be active on **March 1st-31st** to memorialize the experiments conducted by Guglielmo Marconi from the ship "Regina Elena" in the port of Augusta (March 9, 1914). QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct to [IT9MRM](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0301-0405)

**J2, DJIBOUTI.** Bryan, AD8HK is QRV as **J28HK** while here on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 20 meters using various digital modes. QSL to [AD8HK](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0315)

**J3, GRENADA.** ON4HIL, ON4MA, ON5RA, ON5TN, ON6CC and ON7RU will be active as **J38R** from Grenada (NA-024) on **March 4th-16th**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 160-10 meters, as well as RTTY on 20m, with up to four stations. Log search and Live Stream on ClubLog; full log LoTW upload after six months. See <https://rockall.be/> for more information and updates. QSL via [MØURX's OQRS](#).



-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0301-0315)

**J6, ST. LUCIA.** Dan, WØCN is QRV as **J68CN**. He will be active as **J62K** in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL J68CN via LoTW and J62K via [K9HZ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**KH6, HAWAII.** Fred, NA2U is QRV as **KH6/NA2U** until **March 4th**. He will be active as **KH7M** in the ARRL DX SSB contest (March 2nd-3rd). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**KP2, VIRGIN IS.** WP3A will be operating as **KP2B** in the upcoming ARRL DX SSB Contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL via [WP3A](#).

-[DXNL # 2395 February 28, 2024] (0301-0308)

**KP2, VIRGIN IS.** KC1KUG, W3MLJ and WO5T will be active as **NP2R** from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (NA-106) from **February 27th to March 4th**. They will operate CW, SSB and possibly FT8/FT4 on 160-10 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW. QSL direct to [KC3UII](#).

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0308)

**PJ5, SABA & ST. EUSTATIUS.** Janusz, SP9FIH will be QRV as **PJ5/SP9FIH** from St. Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL to [SP9FIH](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**PJ7, SINT MAARTEN.** Tom, AA9A will be QRV as **PJ7AA** from **March 2nd to 30th**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to [AA9A](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0329)

**PJ7, SINT MAARTEN.** Gary, KC9EE will be active again as **PJ7EE** from Sint Maarten (NA-105) from **February 21st to March 6th**. He will operate mainly CW, with SSB during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd). He will be looking for openings towards Asia especially on 17-10 meters. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [KC9EE](#).

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0308)

**PZ, SURINAME.** Dimitri, RA3CO is QRV as **PZ5DX** from Lelydorp. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 7 February 15, 2024] (0216-0322)

**TI, COSTA RICA.** A group of operators will be QRV as **TI1T** as a Multi Single/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**TY, BENIN.** Gerard F5NVF, Luc F5RAV and Abdel MØNPT (7X2TT) will be active as **TY5C** from Cotonou, Benin from **March 2nd to 29th**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on various bands (6 meters included) and will also be QRV via satellite (QO-100). QSL direct to [F5RAV](#), or via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0301-0329)

**UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA.** Special callsigns **R1Ø8M**, **R1934G**, **R1961G** and **RG61PP** will be active from the Smolensk Oblast on **March 1st-12th** to commemorate the anniversaries of Yuri Gagarin's birth (March 9, 1934) and historic 108-minute first flight ("Pervyj Poljot") into outer space (April 12, 1961). QSL via operator's instructions.

-[425DXN # 1713 March 2, 2024] (0301-0315)

**V3, BELIZE.** Uwe, DL8UD will be active again as **V31KO** from Belize from **February 15th to March 6th**. He will operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 160-6 meters, and will participate in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 17th-18th), the CQ WW 160-Meter SSB Contest

(February 23rd-25th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2nd-3rd) as V3O. QSL for both call signs via [DL8UD](#).

-[425DXN # 1707 January 20, 2024] (0209-0308)

**V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS.** Jeff, K1ZN will be QRV as **V44/K1ZN** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **February 27th to March 6th**. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to [K1ZN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0308)

**V5, NAMIBIA.** Frank, DL7ATA is QRV as **V5/DL7ATA** until **March 23rd**. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB in his evening hours. QSL to [DL7ATA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 6 February 8, 2024] (0209-0322)

**VE, CANADA.** Members of the Newfoundland-based Grassroots Amateur Radio Club (VO1GRC) will be active as **VO1TAP** from **February 18th to March 18th**. The call sign commemorates the anniversary of the USS "Truxtun" and USS "Pollux" naval disaster that occurred off the coast of Newfoundland on February 18, 1942. See <https://grassrootsarc.weebly.com/vo1tap.html> for more information. QSL via LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1712 February 24, 2024] (0223-0322)

**VP9, BERMUDA.** Les, N1SV is QRV as **VP9/N1SV**. He will be active as **VP9I** in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL to [N1SV](#), and VP9I to [WW3S](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

**XU, CAMBODIA.** Tom, DL7BO and Jose, EA1CS are QRV as **XU7GNY** until **March 15th**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via [DJ6TF](#), OQRS, LoTW, eQSL.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0315)

**YO, ROMANIA.** Celebrating the 95th anniversary of the first amateur radio association in Romania's Arad County, special call signs **YR95AR, YR95CC, YR95CH, YR95IN, YR95LI, YR95PE** and **YR95SE** will be active from **February 16th until May 31st**. The event is being organized by C.S. Radioclub Admira (YO2KBQ), the successor of the club that was established almost a century ago. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/YR95AR> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0322)

**Z3, NORTH MACEDONIA.** Al, DJØLZ will be QRV as **Z36T** from Skopje from **February 25th to March 25th**. QSL direct to [DJØLZ](#).

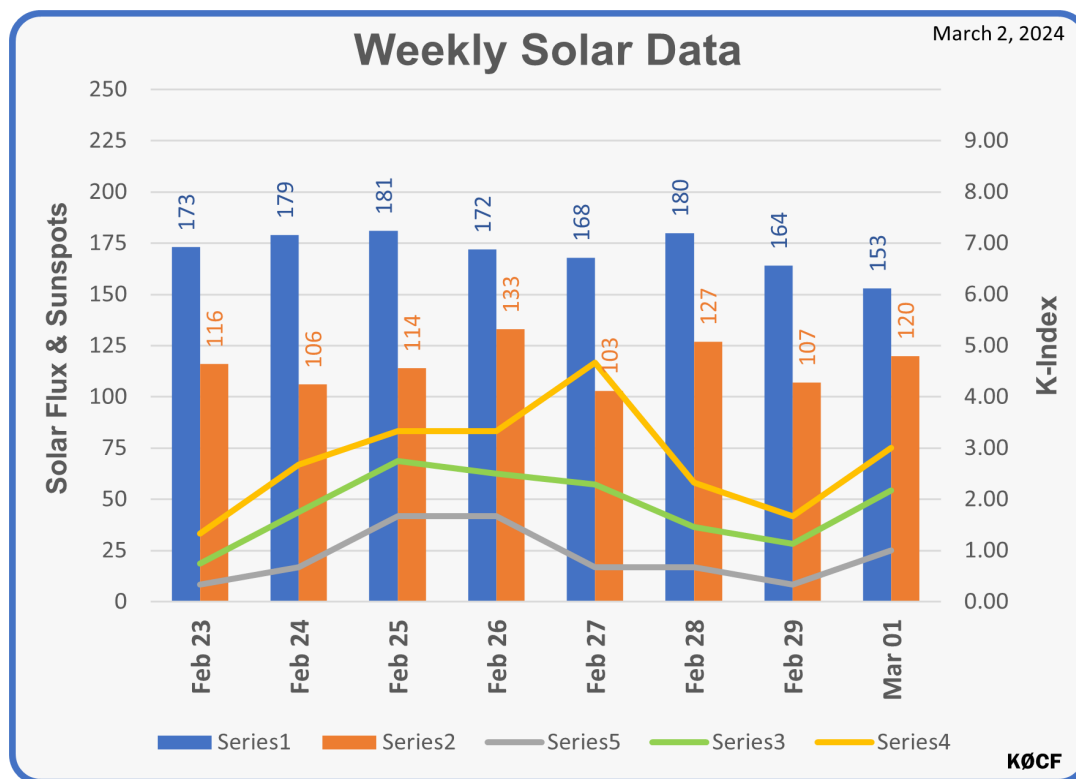
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 8 February 22, 2024] (0223-0329)

**ZF, CAYMAN IS.** Operators W9KKN, K6JO and K7ZO will be QRV as **ZF1A** as a Multi Single/High Power entry in the ARRL DX SSB contest (**March 2nd-3rd**). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 February 29, 2024] (0301-0308)

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## Propagation (Updated daily)



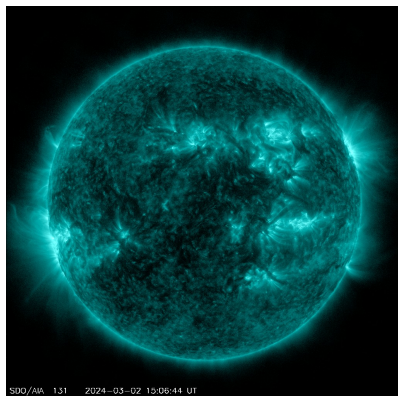
The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (K-Idx) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.



Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!

## Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, February 23rd through yesterday, March 1st.

The average solar flux was 171, up 7 points from the previous week, with a weekly high

of 181 on Sunday, February 25th, followed by a low of 153 on March 1st.

The average sunspot count was 116, up 44 from last week, peaking at 133 on Monday, February 26th followed by a weekly low of 103 on February 27th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 2.8 with a maximum of 4.7 on Tuesday, February 27th, resulting in generally quiet geomagnetic conditions.

Solar flare activity since February 23rd has been moderate with 8 major flares, the largest of which was an M 4.5 event on Saturday, February 24th.

## Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, February 23rd through 1349 UTC, March 2nd.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Feb 28	1854	M 1.5
2	Feb 25	1722	M 2.0
3	Feb 24	1118	M 3.6
4	Feb 24	1057	M 2.2
5	Feb 24	0634	M 4.5
6	Feb 23	1747	M 2.6
7	Feb 23	1553	M 1.5
8	Feb 23	1328	M 1.0

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Mar 2	50%	10%	150
Mar 3	25%	1%	150
Mar 4	25%	1%	155

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on February 26, 2024).

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 2	170	2
Mar 3	170	2
Mar 4	172	2
Mar 5	172	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 6	170	2
Mar 7	165	2
Mar 8	165	2
Mar 9	165	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Mar 10	168	2
Mar 11	165	2
Mar 12	165	2
Mar 13	160	2

## Highs for Cycle 25

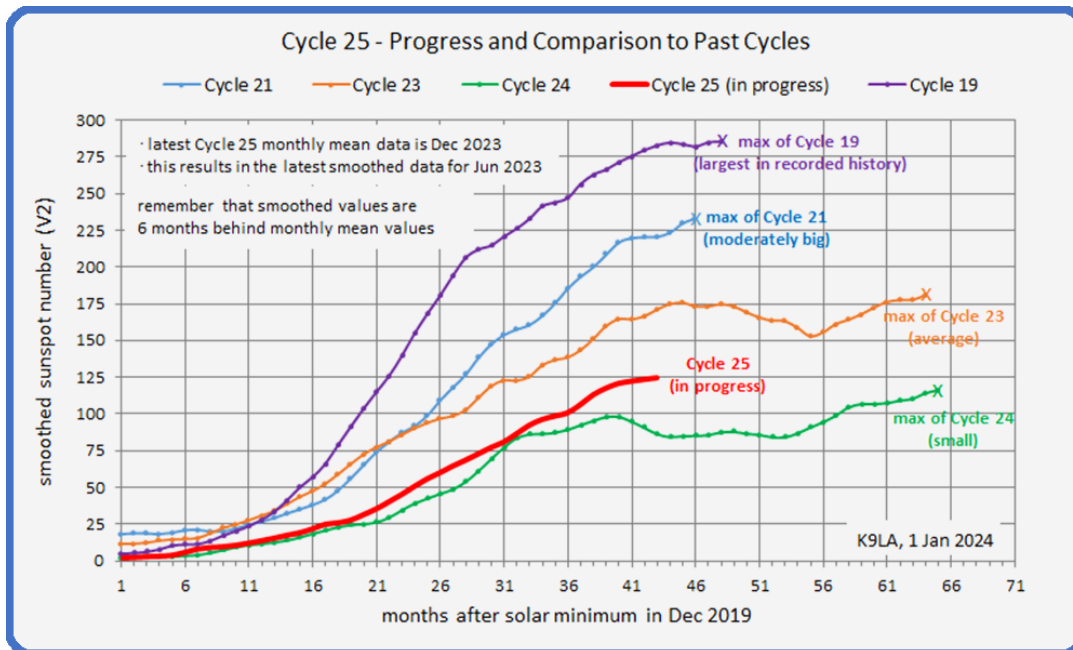
Solar Flux: 234 on January 15, 2023.

Sunspots: 227 on July 11, 2023.



## Cycle 25 vs. Past Cycles

Propagation guru Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA has created this graph showing Cycle 25 progress as compared to a few past Solar Cycles. It is very interesting to see that Cycle 25 is a very modest iteration, providing some good but not great propagation on the HF bands.



## Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.net/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

## A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters.

However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

## Contest Calendar

### Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000Z is Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central time zone.

### Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 2	0000Z	Mar 3	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 2	1800Z	Mar 3	1359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 9	1400Z	Mar 10	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 9	1500Z	Mar 10	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 9	1900Z	Mar 10	1900Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 10	0000Z	Mar 10	0359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 10	1800Z	Mar 11	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 16	0200Z	Mar 18	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Russian DX Contest	Mar 16	1200Z	Mar 17	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 24	0000Z	Mar 24	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</b>	Mar 30	0000Z	Mar 31	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 6	1400Z	Apr 7	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
SP DX Contest	Apr 6	1500Z	Apr 7	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 13	0700Z	Apr 14	1300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 13	1400Z	Apr 14	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Georgia QSO Party	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 14	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 19	2100Z	Apr 20	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
YU DX Contest	Apr 20	0700Z	Apr 21	0659Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
CQMM DX Contest	Apr 20	0900Z	Apr 21	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 20	1600Z	Apr 21	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 20	1800Z	Apr 21	1800Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 21	1800Z	Apr 21	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	Apr 27	0001Z	Apr 28	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
SP DX RTTY Contest	Apr 27	1200Z	Apr 28	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Helvetia Contest	Apr 27	1300Z	Apr 28	1259Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Florida QSO Party	Apr 27	1600Z	Apr 28	2159Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	May 4	0001Z	May 5	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 4	1300Z	May 5	0700Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Indiana QSO Party	May 4	1600Z	May 5	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Delaware QSO Party	May 4	1700Z	May 5	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New England QSO Party	May 4	2000Z	May 5	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 11	1200Z	May 12	1159Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 18	1200Z	May 19	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Arkansas QSO Party	May 18	1400Z	May 19	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Baltic Contest	May 18	2100Z	May 19	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b>	May 25	0000Z	May 26	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 1	1300Z	Jun 2	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Jun 1	1800Z	Jun 2	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]